



Better stroke services in West Yorkshire and Harrogate

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Introduction



We need to better look at improving the services for people who have had a **stroke** in West Yorkshire and Harrogate.



A **stroke** is where part of someone's brain does not get enough blood.

Their face may drop on one side.



They may not be able to lift their arms.

They may not be able to speak - or their speech may be blurry.



You must dial 999 straight away. It is important to act fast.

People affected by stroke



Stroke is common. About 10 people suffer a stroke every day in West Yorkshire and Harrogate.



Most people who suffer stroke are over age 65.

Half the people who suffer stroke are over age 75.



Many people make a good recovery if they get the right treatment quickly.



We think that the number of people who suffer from stroke will increase.

Stroke services



The way that we treat people who have had a stroke has improved a lot.



Doctors know a lot more about how to help people who have suffered stroke.



We also know more about how to stay well and stop a stroke happening in the first place.



We can help people best if:

- They get emergency help in a specialist stroke unit in the first 3 days
- They get help to recover afterwards near to where they live



Emergency help

We want to give people emergency help in the first 3 days.



This will include:

- Scans
- Special drugs
- Maybe surgery to get rid of a blood clot



This is best in specialist centre with staff who understand the issues.

These specialist centres don't need to be near to where people live - but they do need to have the best staff who have been trained to work with stroke patients.





Recovery

After the first three days patients need time to recover.



It can take time to start talking again and using arms and legs.



It is important that this is near to home so that family and friends can visit.

Some issues for stroke services



We have been looking at our health services for stroke.



These are the main issues:

- People need the same good information about how to stay healthy and not have a stroke



- Some people in West Yorkshire and Harrogate get a better service than in other areas



- We need to make sure everyone gets the same good service



- By treating people in the right way we can help them to recover well



- We have 5 emergency stroke units in West Yorkshire and Harrogate



- We have not decided to reduce the number of emergency stroke units at this stage



- We need to train ambulance staff to understand the best things to do to help people with stroke



- We need to look at the support that could be given by community groups to help people recover well



- We need to look at new ways to stop people having a stroke

What should happen



We think that:

- We need to make sure our services will be good for the future



- We need to look at the best ways to make sure that everyone can get the right help as quickly as possible

Next steps



Over the next few months we will be looking at better improving the services we give.



We will discuss how we might do this with professionals and representatives from people who use our services.



We have talked to people about stroke services and have written a report.



We will continue to talk to people about how we might further improve services



No decisions will be made until 2018. We will continue to talk to people as the work develops.

For more information

If you need more information please contact us on:



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Web: **www.wakefieldccg.nhs.uk/stp**